THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. The production and dispatches of cement have been increasing every year. As per the Cement Manufacturers' Association, the total production of cement was 127.57 million tonnes, 141.81 million tonnes and 155.66 million tonnes in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) the details of cost of production are not maintained as it varies from company to company.

Steps to increase regional trade

†1642. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any steps to increase regional trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent in this regard; and

(d) the number of custom-centres functioning at present on the border-roads of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) India has signed Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Sri Lanka, Singapore, Nepal & Bhutan. India has also signed South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. India has signed Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) with Afghanistan, Chile and MERCOSUR, and is also signatory to the regional preferential trading agreements, namely, Asia Pacific Trade Agreements (Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of korea, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka as members) & Global System of Trade Preference open to all developing countries). India has an Early Harvest Scheme with Thailand where tariff concessions are exchanged on 82 products.

(d) A Total of 136 Land Customs Stations, 36 Customs airport and 95 customs Ports have been notified for import and export of goods.

Setting up of International Trade Centre in India

†1643. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up in International Trade Centre in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.